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#### NEWS

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#### USDA ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF 2001 BIOENERGY PROGRAM - EXPANDS ELIGIBLE FEED STOCKS

WASHINGTON, January 8, 2002 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture today reported results of the Fiscal Year 2001 Bioenergy Program as an increase in output of 141.3 million gallons of ethanol and 6.4 million gallons of biodiesel, indicating additional usage of U.S. crops, especially corn and soybeans.

Under the two-year program, the Commodity Credit Corporation provides payments to producers to offset part of their cost of buying commodities used to expand eligible bioenergy (commercial fuel grade ethanol and biodiesel) production. The program stimulates industrial consumption of agricultural commodities by promoting their use in bioenergy production, a significant element of President Bush's energy policy which calls for increased production from renewable energy sources. Increased bioenergy production lessens U.S. dependence on fossil fuels and helps support farmers' and other agricultural producers' income. Payments are based on output increases (using eligible commodities) over the previous year.

The program was authorized for FY 01 and FY 02 and total payments could not exceed \$150 million in total per fiscal year. Payments for FY 01 were \$32.74 million for increased ethanol production and \$7.94 million for increased biodiesel production.

For FY 01 and the first quarter FY 02, eligible commodities were barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, rice, wheat, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, crambe, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, flaxseed, mustard seed, and cellulosic crops (such as switchgrass and short rotation trees) grown on farms in the United States and its territories for the purpose of and used in producing fuel grade ethanol and/or biodiesel.

USDA also announced today that, as of January 1, 2002, biodiesel producers who use animal fats and oils produced in the U.S. to produce biodiesel may participate in the program. Biodiesel producers have until January 31 to sign up to participate. Production increases from animal fats and oils between January 1 and September 30, 2002 will be eligible for program payments.

A previous signup period held in September 2001 covered

the commodities eligible at that time. Bioenergy Program Agreements, Form CCC-850, (Agreements) submitted in September are under review and eligible Agreements will be executed in the near future. Producers who have or will have eligible biodiesel production from animal fats and oils by September 30 have until January 31 to sign up to participate in the Bioenergy Program for FY 2002 by obtaining instructions and related forms from the Kansas City Commodity Office, Contract Reconciliation Division, P.O. Box 419205, STOP 8758, Kansas City, MO 64141-6205, telephone 816-926-6525.

The final rule implementing the Bioenergy Program was published on November 13, 2000, in the Federal Register and is codified at 7 CFR Part 1424. Interested parties may obtain additional program information from the final rule or by contacting James Goff at (202) 720-5396 or by e-mail at james\_goff@wdc.usda.gov

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